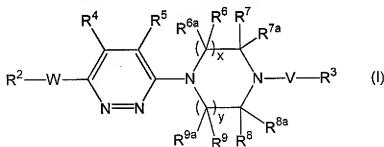


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

x and y are each independently 1;

W is -O-, -C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>1</sup>)-, -S(O)<sub>t</sub>- (where t is 0, 1 or 2), -N(R<sup>1</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -OC(O)- or -C(O)-;

V is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -C(O)N(R<sup>1</sup>)-, -C(O)O-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>1</sup>)- or -C(R<sup>11</sup>)H-;

each R<sup>1</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>aralkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl,

C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl,

C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>aralkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclylalkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroaryl, and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroarylalkyl, provided that when W is -O-, R<sup>2</sup> is not C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl;

or R<sup>2</sup> is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are

independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl,

C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl,

C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>aralkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclylalkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroaryl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroarylalkyl, provided that when V is -C(O)- or -C(O)O-, R<sup>3</sup> is not C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl;

or R<sup>3</sup> is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are

independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or  $-N(R^{13})_2$ ;

$R^6$ ,  $R^{6a}$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{7a}$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^{8a}$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{9a}$  are each independently selected from hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl;

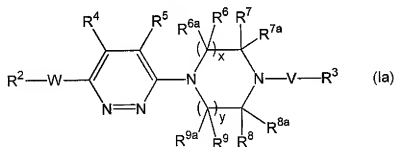
$R^{14}$  is  $C_4$ - $C_8$ alkyl; and

each  $R^{13}$  is independently selected from hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

2. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ia):



wherein:

$x$  and  $y$  are each independently 1;

$W$  is  $-O-$ ,  $-C(O)O-$ ,  $-N(R^1)-$ ,  $-S(O)_t-$  (where  $t$  is 0, 1 or 2),  $-N(R^1)S(O)_2-$ ,  $-OC(O)-$  or  $-C(O)-$ ;

$V$  is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-C(S)-$ ,  $-C(O)N(R^1)-$ ,  $-C(O)O-$ ,  $-S(O)_2-$ , or  $-S(O)_2N(R^1)-$  or  $-C(R^{14})H-$ ;

each  $R^1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

$C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl and  $C_7$ - $C_{18}$ aralkyl;

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,

$C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,

$C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{18}$ aralkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclylalkyl,

$C_1$ - $C_{12}$ heteroaryl, and  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl, provided that, when  $W$  is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $R^2$  can not be  $C_6$ -

$C_6$ alkyl substituted by  $-S(O)_2R^{14}$  where  $R^{14}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_{12}$ aralkyl, pyrazinyl, pyridinonyl, pyrrolidinonyl or imidazolyl, provided that when  $W$  is  $-O-$ ,  $R^2$  is not  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl;

or  $R^2$  is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are

independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

$R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{19}$ aralkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclylalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ heteroaryl and  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl, provided that when V is  $-C(O)-$  or  $-C(O)O-$ ,  $R^3$  is not  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl;

or  $R^3$  is a multi-ring structure having 2 to 4 rings wherein the rings are independently selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl and heteroaryl and where some or all of the rings may be fused to each other;

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro or  $-N(R^{13})_2$ ;

$R^6$ ,  $R^{6a}$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{7a}$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^{8a}$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{9a}$  are each independently selected from hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_3$ alkyl;

$R^{11}$  is  $C_3$ - $C_3$ alkyl; and

each  $R^{13}$  is independently selected from hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl;

a stereoisomer, enantiomer or tautomer thereof, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a pharmaceutical composition thereof or a prodrug thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W is  $-O-$ ;

V is  $-C(O)-$  or  $-C(S)-$ ;

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{19}$ aralkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclylalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ heteroaryl, and  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl;

$R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{19}$ aralkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclylalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ heteroaryl and  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl, provided that when V is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $R^3$  is not  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl;

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each hydrogen; and

$R^6$ ,  $R^{6a}$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{7a}$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^{8a}$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{9a}$  are each hydrogen.

12. (original) The compound of Claim 11 wherein:

V is  $-C(O)-$ ;

$R^2$  is  $C_7-C_{12}$ aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkyl and  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkoxy;

$R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkoxy,  $C_1-C_6$ alkylsulfonyl,  $-N(R^{12})_2$ ,  $-OC(O)R^{12}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{12}$ ,  $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$ , cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each  $R^{12}$  is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl,  $C_3-C_6$ cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

13. (original) The compound of Claim 12 wherein:

$R^2$  is  $C_7-C_{12}$ aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo,  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkyl and  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkoxy; and

$R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkyl and  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkoxy.

14. (original) The compound of Claim 13, namely, [4-(6-Phenethyloxy-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone.

15. (original) The compound of Claim 11 wherein:

V is  $-C(O)-$ ;

$R^2$  is  $C_1-C_{12}$ alkyl or  $C_2-C_{12}$ alkenyl;

$R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ trihaloalkoxy,  $C_1-C_6$ alkylsulfonyl,  $-N(R^{12})_2$ ,  $-OC(O)R^{12}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{12}$ ,  $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$ , cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each  $R^{12}$  is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl,  $C_3-C_6$ cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

16. (original) The compound of Claim 11 wherein:

V is -C(O)-;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylsulfonyl, -N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)R<sup>12</sup>, -C(O)OR<sup>12</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylalkyl; and

each R<sup>12</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

17. (original) The compound of Claim 16 wherein:

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy.

18. (original) The compound of Claim 17, namely, {4-[6-(2-Cyclopropyl-ethoxy)-pyridazin-3-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone.

19. (Previously Presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W is -S(O)<sub>t</sub>- (where t is 0, 1 or 2);

V is -C(O)- or -C(S)-;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclylalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroaryl, and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroarylalkyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclylalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroaryl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroarylalkyl, provided that when V is -C(O)-, R<sup>3</sup> is not C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are each hydrogen; and

R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>6a</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>8a</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>9a</sup> are each hydrogen.

20. (original) The compound of Claim 19 wherein:

V is -C(O)-;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy;

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylsulfonyl, -N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)R<sup>12</sup>, -C(O)OR<sup>12</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R<sup>12</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

21. (original) The compound of Claim 20 wherein:

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy; and

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy.

22. (original) The compound of Claim 21 selected from the group consisting of the following:

{4-(6-Phenethylsulfonyl-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl}-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone;  
{4-[6-(2-Phenyl-ethanesulfonyl)-pyridazin-3-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone; and  
{4-[6-(2-Phenyl-ethanesulfonyl)-pyridazin-3-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone.

23. (original) The compound of Claim 19 wherein:

V is -C(O)-;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylsulfonyl, -N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)R<sup>12</sup>, -C(O)OR<sup>12</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R<sup>12</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl,

aryl or aralkyl.

24. (original) The compound of Claim 23 wherein  $R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkoxy.

25. (original) The compound of Claim 24, namely, {4-[6-(3-Methyl-butylsulfanyl)-pyridazin-3-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone.

26. (Previously Presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W is  $-N(R^1)-$ ;

V is  $-C(O)-$  or  $-C(S)-$ ;

$R^1$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl;

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{12}$ aralkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ heteroaryl, and  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl;

$R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{12}$ aralkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heterocyclalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ heteroaryl and  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ heteroarylalkyl, provided that when V is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $R^3$  is not  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl;

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each hydrogen; and

$R^6$ ,  $R^{6a}$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{7a}$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^{8a}$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{9a}$  are each hydrogen.

27. (original) The compound of Claim 26 wherein:

V is  $-C(O)-$ ;

$R^1$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl;

$R^2$  is  $C_7$ - $C_{12}$ aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkoxy;

$R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkoxy,

$C_1$ - $C_6$ alkylsulfonyl,  $-N(R^{12})_2$ ,  $-OC(O)R^{12}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{12}$ ,  $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$ , cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcyloalkyl; and

each  $R^{12}$  is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

28. (original) The compound of Claim 27 wherein  $R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkoxy.

29. (original) The compound of Claim 28 selected from the group consisting of the following:  
[4-(6-Phenethylamino-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone; and  
{4-[6-(Methyl-phenethyl-amino)-pyridazin-3-yl]-piperazin-1-yl}-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanone.

30. (original) The compound of Claim 26 wherein:

V is  $-C(O)-$ ;

$R^1$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl;

$R^2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl or  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkylalkyl;

$R^3$  is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ trihaloalkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkylsulfonyl,  $-N(R^{12})_2$ ,  $-OC(O)R^{12}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{12}$ ,  $-S(O)_2N(R^{12})_2$ , cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcyloalkyl; and

each  $R^{12}$  is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

31. (Previously Presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein:

x and y are each 1;

W is  $-N(R^1)S(O)_2-$ ;

V is  $-C(O)-$  or  $-C(S)-$ ;

$R^1$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl;

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ hydroxyalkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{12}$ alkoxyalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ cycloalkyl,



C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclylalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroaryl, and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroarylalkyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>hydroxyalkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkoxyalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heterocyclylalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroaryl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>heteroarylalkyl, provided that when V is -C(O)-, R<sup>3</sup> is not C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are each hydrogen; and

R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>6a</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7a</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>8a</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>9a</sup> are each hydrogen.

32. (original) The compound of Claim 31 wherein:

V is -C(O)-;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkylalkyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylsulfonyl, -N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)R<sup>12</sup>, -C(O)OR<sup>12</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(cycloalkyl); and

each R<sup>12</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

33. (original) The compound of Claim 32 wherein:

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy.

34. (original) The compound of Claim 33, namely, Propane-1-sulfonic acid {6-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzoyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-pyridazin-3-yl}-amide.

35. (original) The compound of Claim 31 wherein:

V is -C(O)-;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected

from halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy;

R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>trihaloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylsulfonyl, -N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)R<sup>12</sup>, -C(O)OR<sup>12</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>12</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl and heteroarylcycloalkyl; and

each R<sup>12</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

36. (Canceled).

37. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 10.

38. (New) A method for inhibiting stearyl-CoA desaturase, comprising contacting a source of stearyl-CoA desaturase with a compound of claim 1.

39. (New) A method for inhibiting stearyl-CoA desaturase, comprising contacting a source of stearyl-CoA desaturase with a compound of claim 10.